treatment has been circulated to all the States and Union Territories and Central Government hospitals in order to take precautionary steps such as earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency, stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible, setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action and sensitise them on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

(ii) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September, 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of anthrax.

(iii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter Of NICD) on bioterrorism with special reference to anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different States and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/package.

(iv) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(v) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organised on 29th October, by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home and Health, Director of Health Services from various State / . Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(vi) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency for investigations of any specimen suspected for anthrax.

(vii) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Use of infrastructure facilities by private EM. Radio companies in metros

* 7.'SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAnCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow private F.M. Radio companies to use the infrastructure facilities in the metros.

(b) if so, whether any feasibility study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the study; and

(d) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for providing the facilities, so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATIONAND BROADCASTING (SHRTMATI SUSHM A SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that they propose to allow private F M Radio companies to use its infrastructure in 3 metros, namely, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.

(b) and (c) The technical examination has been done by Prasar Bharati in this respect and it has been found technically feasible to locate common antenna on existing towers, if necessary with some modifications in these metros.

(d) No Memorandum of Understanding has been signed so far.

Strategy to tackle the problems of slums and its dwellers

* 8. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared and finalised a slum policy;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that two-pronged strategy would be adopted to tackle the problems of slums and their dwellers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount, so far, agreed to be provided in implementing the scheme; and

(e) the State where this scheme will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry has prepared a draft "National Slum Policy", however, the same has not been finalized so far. The draft policy has been circulated to all the States/UTs, for their comments/ observations, which are still awaited. The Government has recently decided to launch a new scheme known as "Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana" (VAMBAY)